



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

Mississippi Forestry Commission  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Smith County Board of Education Receives Grant for Reforestation**

The Smith County Board of Education recently received good news from the Arbor Day Foundation in the form of a grant to help replant two stands of timber on Sixteenth Section School Trust Land. This grant went toward the purchase of 100,430 longleaf pines seedlings to replant 166 acres of timber that were damaged due to Hurricane Katrina to the point that the timber had to be harvested.

Once timber harvesting operations had been completed, Smith County Service Forester Jared Bynum started looking at how much the tree planting would cost the Board of Education. Bynum started looking at ways to keep the expenses down. As Bynum searched for funding opportunities, he came across a grant offered by the Arbor Day Foundation for reforestation of public and state-owned land. Bynum submitted the grant application and within a few weeks Bynum and the Board of Education were notified by Brad Brandt, Reforestation Manager with the Arbor Day Foundation that the project had been approved. Bynum said, "When I talked with Brandt he said, the Arbor Day Foundation was glad to receive the application because this was the type of project they were looking for and wanted to get more projects in the South."

"This is one of the many ways we are trying to think outside the box so we can stretch our budgets to make them go as far as we can, by partnering with other agencies and organizations," said Jack White, South Central District Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission.

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***Don't Burn on Windy Days because Carelessness Causes Wildfires. Check for local burn bans at [www.mfc.state.ms.us](http://www.mfc.state.ms.us)***